GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:2
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
CORPORATISATION OF DEPARTMENT OF TELECOM. SERVICES
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently constituted a group of Ministers to work out modalities for corporatisation of Department of Telecom Services and resolve all pending issues including those related to pension and wages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said group is likely to submit its report;

(d) the reasons for taking such a decision;

(e) the financial burden the Government are likely to bear on this account;

(f) the benefits likely to accrue to the telephone subscribers with this structural changes;

(g) whether some employee unions have opposed such move and observed strike on June 28, 2000;

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(i) the manner in which the existing staff is likely to be adjusted under each department to safeguard their interests?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (i): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 2 FOR 24th July, 2000 REGARDING CORPORATISATION OF DEPARTME
TELECOM SERVICES.

(a) to (f): The Government has constituted on 7th July, 2000, a Group of Ministers under the chairmanship of theMinister of Communications to facilitate corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services(DTS) and to resolve pending issues such as pay fixation, retirement benefits so as to ensure that there are no impediments to timely implementation of the decision to corporatise the DTS. The composition of the Group is as follows:-

(i) Shri Ram Vilas Paswan,
Minister of Communications.

(ii) Dr. Satya Narayan Jatiya,
Minister of Labour.

(iii) Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi,
Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Science and
Technology and Minister of Ocean Development.

(iv) Shri Murasoli Maran,

Minister of Commerce and Industry.

(v) Shri Yashwant Sinha,
Minister of Finance.

(vi) Smt. Vasundhara Raje,
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries, Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Training, Department of Pensions and Pensioners` Welfare of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.

While no time limit has been specified for the group to submit its report, it is expected to complete its work by 15th August, 2000, keeping in view the announced date of corporatisation of 1st October, 2000. The financial implications of issues such as pension and wages will be known after decisions are taken on the outstanding matters. The telephone subscribers are expected to benefit by the proposed structural change to corporatisation through an improvement in the quality of service, which would be possible inter alia by the greater flexibility available to a corporate entity, the providing of a level playing field to all service providers, and the resultant competitive environment.

(g) and (h): Yes Sir; however, except for a small section, rest of the unions withdrew/deferred the proposed strike on the assurance given to them that their concerns would be addressed in a time bound manner before corporatisation.

(i): Allocation of staff will be done based on job requirements/ workload.